

In the Claims: (strikethrough parts deleted and underlined parts added)

Please delete Claims 1 - 15 without prejudice.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

Please add the following claim:

16. (New) A mortise and tenon joint system, comprising:

a first board member comprised of wood having a first end and a tenon continuously extending from said first end, wherein said tenon has an oblong cross sectional shape with opposing rounded end portions;

a second board member having a second end and a mortise within said second end for snugly receiving said tenon, wherein said mortise has an oblong cross sectional shape with opposing rounded end portions corresponding to said tenon, and wherein said mortise has a cross sectional size larger than said tenon;

a plurality of channels extending transversely between a plurality of flat outer wall portions within said tenon for receiving adhesive, wherein said plurality of channels are comprised of:

a base channel adjacent said first end;

an end channel within a distal end of said tenon; and

at least one middle channel positioned between said base channel and said end channel, wherein said at least one middle channel is located a distance greater from said base channel than from said end channel;

wherein said plurality of channels are parallel to one another;

wherein each of said plurality of channels extend within an outer perimeter of said tenon;

wherein said at least one middle channel is comprised of a first channel and a second channel;

wherein said at least one middle channel is comprised of a first channel and a second channel;

wherein a distance between said first channel and said base channel is greater than a distance between said second channel and said end channel;

wherein said base channel is comprised of a tapered structure;

a plurality of lands extending between each of said plurality of channels within said tenon, wherein each of said plurality of lands has a substantially flat structure and are substantially transverse with respect to said channels; and

wherein said plurality of lands extends between said plurality of channels parallel to one another across each side of said tenon.

B. AMENDMENT OF APPLICATION

Responsive to the Official Action mailed **April 13, 2004** and the Interview with the Examiner on **August 20, 2004**, please amend the application as follows:

C. APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

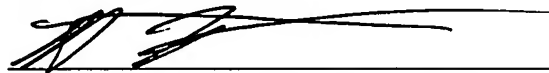
Claims 1 – 15 are cancelled in this Application, and Claim 16 is added. No new matter is added by way of these amendments, and the amendments are supported throughout the Specification and the drawings. Claim 16 is respectfully requested to be in condition for allowance.

The interview with the Examiner on August 20, 2004 was very beneficial. The Applicant agrees to the Summary as prepared by the Examiner in the Interview Summary as to the substance of the interview pursuant to MPEP 713.04.

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Neustel (Reg. No. 41,221)
NEUSTEL LAW OFFICES, Ltd.
2534 South University Drive, Suite No. 4
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

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Date

Telephone: (701) 281-8822
Facsimile: (701) 237-0544
e-mail: Michael@neustel.com